



Nation of Patriot Riders

October 2026

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director

The Patriot Tour stopped at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) in September. When the riders got to CNVH, they were greeted by the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department who had the big American flag hanging off their bucket truck as the riders pulled in around the lake. After they arrived, they were welcomed into Freedom Hall by the members with a big round of applause.

The riders had their flag transfer ceremony and shared a few words. Following the ceremony the riders visited with the members and the members went out to look at the motorcycles. The members always enjoy when the riders come!

The Patriot Tour escorts one American flag through all the states. This takes place over 120 days. As they travel to all the different states, different riders join the ride along the way. The goal of the Patriot Tour is to unite Americans beneath the colors of our nation's flag and to support the men and women who stand up and defend it.



Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

September is the transition month from summer to fall. More exactly, September 22nd was the exact date this year of the Autumn Equinox, when the fall truly started. Of course, this is true for the Northern Hemisphere, while the entire Southern Hemisphere experiences the transition from winter to spring at the same time. I know as I experienced that firsthand, as about that time I was on vacation in Peru, the ancient country of the Incas Empire. Beautiful spring weather there, with sunny days, temperatures around 74 degrees Fahrenheit, and humidity around 15%. You can't beat that!

September started with three important days for us all: September 2nd - the Victory Over Japan Day of World War II, followed on September 7th by the Labor Day holiday, and on September 11th - Patriot Day, which marked the solemn 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and Pentagon. The Activity/Recreation department lined up a set of appropriate activities for these days, performed by our activity staff and/or community volunteers.

Usually, each year at the end of September, the fields and rural roads get busier with the beginning of the harvest season, and an abundance of combines, tractors with trailers and semi-trucks animate the scenery. Well, not quite this September, as mother nature had different plans for the farmers, surprising us with more than abundant days of rain which flooded the fields.

Another important event worth mentioning, and very dear to our members, was the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USVA) Creative Arts contest, which is held every year across the country, starting at the regional location of the Grand Island VA Medical Center. Earning a first-place ribbon at our regional level earned a place for their piece to be judged at the national level. Our local veterans right here at CNVH participate every year. This year we had eight entries into the contest, and two of them earned a first-place ribbon. One for ceramics and one for wood craft category. After judging the Art Contest, every item is also displayed at the Nebraska State Fair, which also happened at the beginning of September.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator



Member entries
earning First Place
recognition – one in
ceramics, and one in
wood craft!



Member Council: Member of the Month – RICKEY FUQUA

This month we will be celebrating Rickey Fuqua who is our Member Council's Member of the Month! Rickey was born and raised right here in Kearney, Nebraska. He stayed in Kearney for most of his life but spent a few years living in Red Cloud, NE.

Rickey served in the Army during Vietnam as a Cargo and Material handler. After the army Rickey worked as a truck driver, carpenter, road maintainer, and a volunteer firefighter.

In his down time Rickey enjoys wood working, ceramics, listening to music, John Wayne movies, attending church, and watching TV. Rickey was involved with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion.

Rickey feels his greatest accomplishment is his long marriage to his wife Cheryl, their kids, and grandkids. Rickey's favorite part of living in the home is wood shop, bingo, ceramics, library, and being involved in lots of activities.

Congratulations again to Rickey for being Member of the Month!



Member Council: Employee of the Month RAQUEL BLANCO in Nursing



Raquel Blanco is a registered nurse who has worked on Bravo for over two years. She is a truly a deserving choice for Employee of the Month thanks to her dedicated work ethic and compassionate approach to care.

She has built a fantastic rapport with her teammates and is always someone her team can rely on. She is regularly stepping up to pick up extra shifts whenever support is needed. Most importantly, her genuine devotion to the members shines through in everything she does. The members trust her deeply and know they are always receiving exceptional care under her watch.

Veterans Home Honors 9/11 with Timeline Display

Members and staff at CNVH could stop by the Hearth Room on the anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy and take time to honor and remember the events of September 11, 2001. The display marks each key moment of that day, from the first plane striking the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m. to the collapse of the towers and the heroic actions of Flight 93 passengers. For many members and staff here at CNVH, the display serves as both memorial and a place of reflection. Some recalled where they were when the tragic news broke. Throughout the day on September 11th, you would see members and staff stopping by the display and taking a moment to reflect and remember.



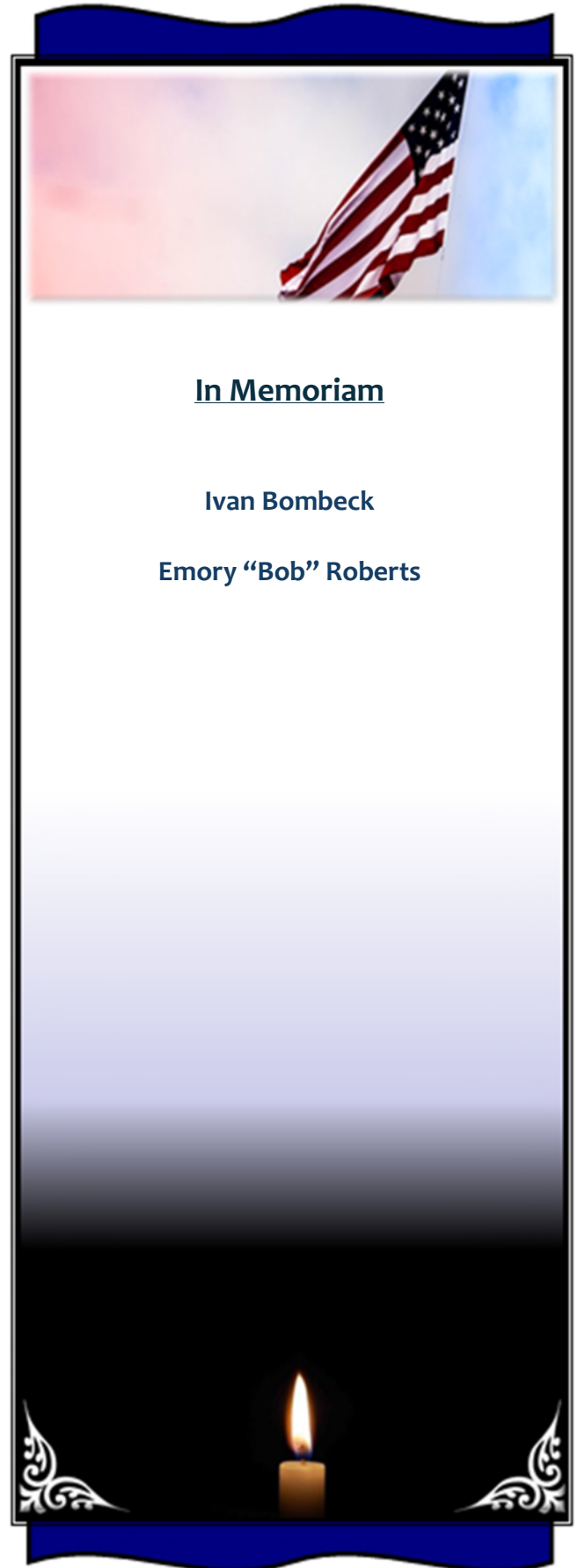
In Memoriam

Ivan Bombeck

Emory "Bob" Roberts

Fall Prevention Bingo

Fall Prevention and Awareness Month is an educational period in September. Powerback Therapy teamed up with CNVH's Recreation Team and put on a fun and informative Fall Prevention Bingo to continue to bring awareness to this important issue. This didn't just focus on the act of falling, but the importance of recognizing changes and health factors that can lead to falls so members are better able to communicate these changes and put interventions in place to help the member prevent falls. The members had bingo cards with different things that they could do to help prevent a fall. For each one that was drawn there was an explanation for the members to listen to on ways to prevent that type of fall. The members enjoyed the afternoon playing bingo and learning more about Fall Prevention.



Nebraska State Fair

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director

It's Nebraska State Fair time once again! The members enjoyed time at the State Fair in Grand Island during the first week in September. They enjoyed spending their day exploring the fairgrounds and event halls checking out all the fun things to see. From the 4-H pieces, to the animals, and last but not least of course, Fair food. There were blocks of food trucks for the members providing a wide variety of options to pick from! Many of the members enjoyed a funnel cake because it isn't a fair without a funnel cake! The members also thoroughly enjoyed the ice cream stands. Many of the members sent their craft pieces to the State Fair once again. Some members attended the State Fair on Labor Day for the special Veterans Program and watched the parade that day. The members look forward to attending the State Fair each year and seeing the various unique events!



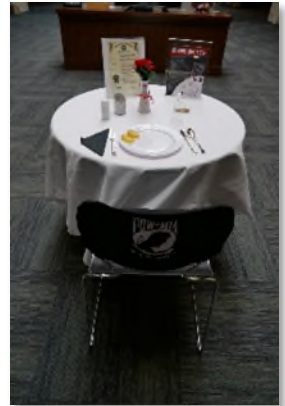
POW & MIA Remembrance Table

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director

On September 18th, a POW & MIA Table was on display in the Hearth Room for members and staff to stop and take a moment to reflect on the meaning of sacrifice. The POW & MIA Remembrance Table is also known as the “Missing Man Table,” set to honor those who were prisoners of war and those still missing in action. Every item on the table holds deep symbolic meaning:

- A small table represents the frailty of one prisoner, alone against their oppressors.
- A white tablecloth symbolizes the purity of their intentions in serving their country.
- A single red rose in a vase stands for the blood they may have shed and the families and loved ones awaiting their return.
- A yellow ribbon tied around the vase reminds us of those who still hope.
- A slice of lemon on the plate reflects their bitter fate, and a pinch of salt symbolizes the tears shed by families.
- An inverted glass shows they cannot partake in the meal. An empty chair is a silent reminder—they are missing but not forgotten.

This table reminds us that freedom comes at a great cost. For the veterans who walk by the table each day, it's more than a display. It's a promise that their brothers and sisters in arms will always be remembered.



Annual Pinewood Derby

By Ralph Healey, Editor

The Central Nebraska Veterans' Home had its annual pinewood derby this past month. Twenty members spent eight weeks working on making cars for the event down in our wood shop. Each member started with a block of wood and produced a unique car to race down a gravity driven track. The weekend prior to the races the cars were complete and placed in a display case outside Freedom Hall so everyone could vote on eight categories including most unique, best design, and more. Then, voting for favorite cars was announced at the start of the races. We then did a double elimination style event. Going back and forth from our main bracket and our consolation bracket gave everyone multiple races against their various competitors cars, resulting in our undisputed top three racers going head-to-head three times to confirm which car truly was the fastest. The results were consistent with each of the final cars scoring first, second, and third all three races giving us our top placers for this year's races. Congratulations to our winners and thank you everyone for coming to support the hard work everyone put into their cars. We look forward to seeing what everyone comes up with next year!





Check us out on the web!

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh>

Special Point of Interest Next Month:

- Halloween Activities
- Merrymakers/Dreamweaver Concert with Ben Tomasello

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